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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Lamentations

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HARDING
U N I V E R S I T Y

FOR THE WAYS OF ZION DO WE MOURN

Lam. 1:1-6

- I. If I went to:
 - A. A pep rally, I'd expect yells.
 - B. A circus, I'd expect clowns.
 - C. A political meeting, expect double talk.
 - D. Read Lam. I'd expect sadness.
- II. Jeremiah does not disappoint - he moves to tears.
 - A. All of us have our dreams.
 - B. All of us have some dreams shattered.
 - C. But what is our goal & dream for the church of God?
- III. Let me tell you Jeremiah's hurts.
 - A. It begins with "How."
 1. Jews used it as title of Book.
 - B. The "hows" cover a multitude of questions.
 - a.) "How doth the city sit solitary that was full of people?"
 - (1) Now deserted by inhabitants.
 - b.) "How is she become a widow?"
 - (1) Widow personification of desolation & misery.
 - (2) There is an irremediable loneliness to widow tho she has friends.
 - c.) How is she become tributary?
 - (1) She who commanded respect now pays it & more!
 - (2) When the church ceases to influence the world, she will become subject to the world.
 - (3) Maintains her liberty by her superiority.
 - (4) Tributary here more in service than payment as word used.

d.) Note:

Once populous, now solitary.

Once Prince, now tributary.

Once Joyful, now weep.

Once espoused to God, now widows.

Once rich in allies, now w/o a friend.

B. Her condition.

1. Weepeth sore in the night.

a.) Tears are on her cheeks.

b.) Not just in day, but even in seasons of rest & unconsciousness, she cries.

2. No lover to comfort her.

a.) Unworthy connections afford no comfort in time of trouble.

b.) What consolation can a materialistic philosophy whisper in the ears of mourners at the grave.

c.) Lovers stay just for a season & for pleasure - desert in time of trial.

3. Friends dealt treacherously - became enemies.

4. Gone into captivity because of affliction & servitude.

a.) Dwells among heathen.

b.) Finds no rest.

c.) Persecuted.

C. For the Ways of Zion do we Mourn.

1. None come to the solemn feast.

a.) Calamity for public worship to cease.

b.) Some lose the joy of it.

c.) It elevates - spiritually & socially.

d.) We lose brotherly affection.

e.) We forget those we cease to see.

f.) We lose moral stimulus.

g.) Spiritual decline sets in.

2. All her gates are desolate.

a.) We keep external observations only for a season if the heart is gone.

b.) Body doesn't at once decay when spirit forsakes.

c.) Saw no connection c righteousness & mercy via worship.

d.) Gates usually pressed are unused.

3. Priest sigh, virgins afflicted, she is in bitterness.

a.) Lost joy of worship.

IV. Have you ever felt that hurt?

What can be done about it?

A. Is a confession in order?

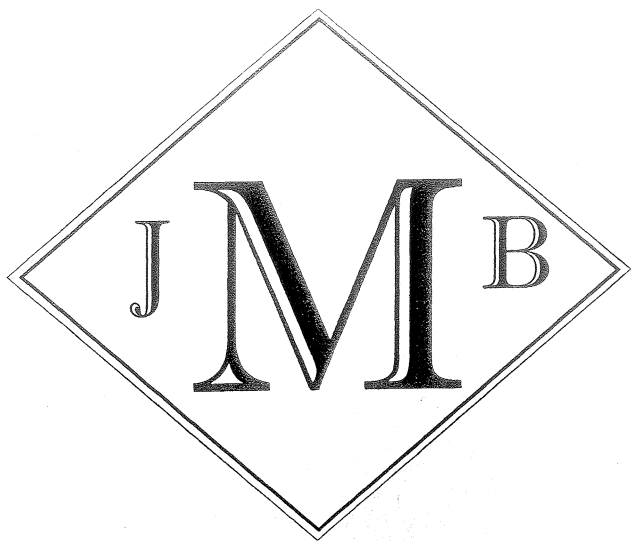
B. Repent & Pray for Pardon.

C. Resolve to obey.

D. Reverence the Right.

E. Hurt overcome in serving others.

Thel End 10-14-79



FACTS ABOUT CULTS

Lam. 2:22

(Read Enroth underlines)

- I. If I give you my attention and you state "I'd like to preach on cults," there are several questions I'd expect you to answer. So may we approach them. They are:

II. What is a cult?

A. Definitions.

1. Any group or movement that steps outside orthodox biblical faith of the historic church.
2. It's the new extremist groups whose charismatic leaders consume the lives of members.
 - a.) Dr. Jack Sparks in The Mindbenders "These cults are one man shows. The authority for their authenticity goes back no farther than their founders."
3. Formal religious veneration; a system of religious beliefs and ritual" - Webster.
4. Dr. Chas. Braden "These Also Believe" "Any religious group which differs significantly in some one or more respects as to belief or practice from those religious groups which are regarded as the normative expressions of religion in our total culture."
5. Walter Martin "Kingdom of the Cults" "A group of people gathered about a specific person or person's interpretation of the Bible."

III. Are there any cults today sufficient to cause concern?

A. Number.

1. Some say there are 3,000 different cults.
2. Estimates say their membership numbers two million or as high as 10 million devotees.

IV. Why do people join cults?

- A. Honor thy children quote about parents.
- B. Also Pages 118-119.
- C. Conditions in society & in the church. (Why weren't they here 50 yrs. ago?)
 1. Loneliness.
 2. Immediate satisfaction.
 3. Selfishness.
 4. No absolutes.
 5. All institutions suffer decay.
 6. Van Baalen, "The cults are the unpaid bills of the church."
 - a.) Love one another.
 - b.) Evangelize.
 - c.) Where's the church when I hurt?

V. How do cults gain members?

- A. Louis West, M.D., UCLA, "Cult recruitment relies on deception. Recruiters use intimate eye contact & excessive friendliness at the same time concealing the true identity of their group.
- B. See quote on Margaret Singer.

VI. What do cults teach?

- A. Naturally, there is a wide spectrum.
- B. Some are:
 1. Divine Light Mission - Jesus was the Perfect Master of His time but Ji has replaced him.
 2. Moonies - Man's physical redemption will

5.
happen thru a second Messiah & they imply Moon is it.

3. Children of God - started as fundamentalist counter-culture ministry but now incorporates the occult, reincarnation & sexual permissiveness. They say David (Moses David) Brandt Berg is the only end-time prophet.

4. Berg & MO quotes.

VII. What are some cultist abuses.

- A. Members turn over all their savings to leaders.
- B. Rev. Moon has a \$400,000 Frankfurt, Germany estate.
- C. Members are assigned daily quotas of \$100 to \$150 thru street sales.
- D. Some raise \$1,500 selling flowers, candy & begging.
- E. 911 followers of Jim Jones died at Guyana. Nov. 18, 1978 "In Jones We Trust" spirit.

VIII. What is the Key to Cults' successes.

- A. Fantastic organization. Cult leaders are super organizers.

IX. Name some cults.

- A. Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon.
- B. The Way International.
- C. Hare Krishnas.
- D. Church of Bible Understanding.
- E. Divine Light Mission.
- F. CKANKAR.
- G. Family of Love formerly the Children of God.
- H. COG.

- I. The Church of Scientology.
- J. The Church of the Living Word.
- X. What is the answer to stop them?
 - A. Moral test.
 - 1. Hate sin.
 - 2. Practice righteousness.
 - I Jn. 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with him
 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in him ought hims
 2:29 "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know
 - B. Love one another Jn. 13:34-35.
 - C. Believe the right thing in doctrine.
 - I Jn. 4:1-6 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but tr
 - 1.) People join cults due to ignorance.
 - 2.) Know the Scriptures.
 - I Tim. 4:16 "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the do
 - D. Know that in Christ you have everything.
 - 1.) Experience is not superior.
 - Col. 2:9-10 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of th
 - 2.) God hasn't shortchanged us.
 - E. Appreciate grace of God.
 - 1. Self perfection can't save.
 - 2. Works do not justify.
 - F. Exhibit genuine love - no backbiting, criticism.
 - G. Know true worship & feel its beauty.
- XI. Recognition of Cults.
 - A. J. L. Neve in "Churches & Sects of
 Christendom" gave these traits.
 - 1. Smallness.
 - 2. Elevation of peculiar tenet of its former
 denomination.

- 3. Claims of perfection & of being the true church.
- 4. Proselyting.
- 5. Separation from world & state.
- 6. Radical teaching that is subversive to the gospel

B. From 2 Peter 2:1-3.

1. Teach Heresy.

- a.) Heresy is "an opinion especially self willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth & leads to division & formation of sects." W. E. Vine

Matt. 15:9 "But in vain they do worship me, teaching

- b.) Note they are damnable - they damn the followers.

2. Deny truth.

- a.) Deny Lordship of Jesus.

Jude 4 "For there are certain men crept in unawares,

1 Jn. 4:3 "And every spirit that confesseth not that J

2 Tim. 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying

2 Tim. 4:3 "For the time will come when they will r

- b.) Deny fundamental truths like atonement, incarnation, resurrection.

3. Live Perniciously.

- a.) Means lascivious & immoral.

Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God; but in

4. They are covetous.

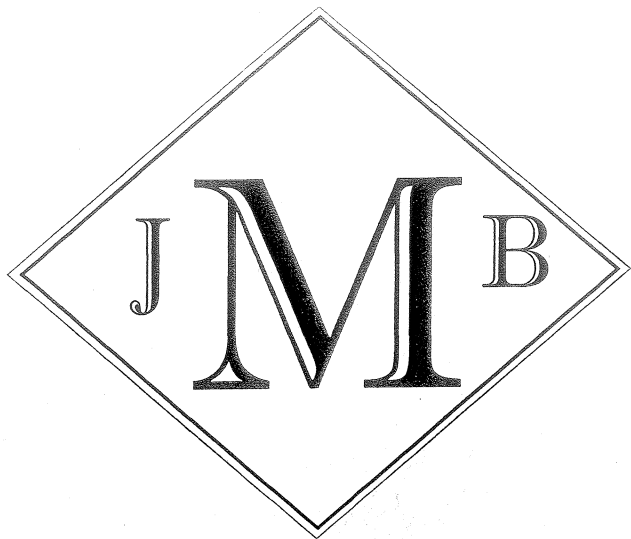
Titus 1:11 "Whose mouths must be stopped, who subv

5. Practice deceit.

Matt. 5:15 "Neither do men light a candle, and put

Matt. 24:11 "And many false prophets shall rise, an

Matt. 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and
2 Cor. 11:13-15 "For such are false apostles, deceit
C. See Chr. Standard's Marks of the cults.



MORNING IN THE MOUNTAINS

Lam. 3:22-24

- I. Many great things Biblically have happened in the morning.
 - A. Jesus spent all nite in prayer & "when it was day" chose 12, Lu. 6:13.
 - B. As it began to dawn - Resurrection.
 - C. More sure word of prophecy II Pet. 1:19.
- II. I want to tell you of Jeremiah's morning.
 - A. He needed it.

(Read Lam. 3:1-20 & see his state).

 1. Afflicted by rod of wrath.
 2. Led to darkness, not light.
 3. Turned against me all day.
 4. Skin made old - Avanelle Baird's grandchild,
"Why doesn't your skin fit your face?"
 5. Buildd against me--Broken my bones - set me in dark places.
 6. Hedged, can't get out - chain heavy.
 7. Shutteth out prayer.
 8. Enclosed hewn stones - path crooked.
 9. Lion - bear.
 10. Turned aside - pulled in pieces.
 11. Desolate - bow - target.
 12. Derision - song - made fun of.
 13. Bitterness - drunk c wormwood.
 14. Broken teeth - covered c ashes.
 15. No peace or prosperity.
 - B. Suddenly the change.
 - V. 21 "This I recall ...therefore have I hope.

1. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed."

- a.) We have no claim on God's mercies.
- b.) We have no claim on their continuance.
- c.) Mercies are undeserved.
- d.) We do much to provoke cessation of them.
- e.) We are ungrateful, complain, ignore, abuse.
- f.) We don't always see: Moon is always the same size but it doesn't look like it to us.

2. Our protection from being consumed.

- a.) He adapts his grace to the need of the hour.
- b.) Unfailing exercise of mercy.
- c.) Negatively - not consumed.
- d.) It is defeat that turns bone to flint & gristle to muscle & makes men invincible. Do not be afraid of defeat. You are never so near to victory as when you are defeated in a good cause.

3. "Because his compassions fail not."

- a.) Man can be cruel.
- b.) God's not forgotten to be gracious.

4. "New every morning."

- a.) Do we awake each morning c thankfulness?
- b.) Do we see God daily visiting us?
- c.) Mercies ever new like the morning.
- d.) Always a fresh supply.
- e.) Morning represents light after darkness; strength after sleep.

5. "Great is thy faithfulness."

Ps. 37:7 "Rest in the Lord."

a.) Resign self to will of God.

b.) Freely confess faith in Him.

6. Lord is my portion, saith...

Ps. 16:5 "The Lord is the p. of mine inherit...cup

73:26 God is my p. forever

119:57 Thou art my p. O Lord

142:5 Thou art my refuge & my p. in the land

a.) Every man has his portion.

(1) That which is his capital.

(2) That which constitutes his resources.

(3) That out of which he builds his life.

b.) God our portion:

(1) Won't disappear.

(2) Money, power, pleasure, success does.

(3) God stays because He is good (no pleasure in pain)

faithful to promises

power to complete his will.

7. Hope.

a.) Positive -- saved.

b.) God fills our life c hope - we can only hope according to our portion.

Watlinburg, Sheraton, World's Fair Group 6-3-82

